

No. 7371 號一上七百五千七第 日三初月二年 壬絲光 HONGKONG, TUE. DAY, MARCH 21st, 1882. 二拜禮 號壹十二日二萬港泰 [PRICE \$24 PER MONTH]

INTIMATIONS

to the classification of the different crimes might show that there had really been a decrease in the most serious ones. Referring again to the table we find that in 1881 there were two cases of murder, in 1875, three. Of robberies with violence from the person there were 19 cases as against 13 in 1875. Burglary or larceny from dwellings numbered 60 as against 107 in 1875, which certainly shows a decrease, but in 1879 the number was 101 while in 1874 it was only 69, so that taking the whole term of the Go-

VERNON's administration the decrease is not so important as might appear from a comparison of the two particular years we are now dealing with. Of assaults with intent to rob there were none reported in 1881; in 1875 there were three. Kidnapping accounts for 50 cases, as against 66 in 1875. There were seven cases of piracy reported in 1881, and five in 1875. Of unlawful possession there were 600 in 1881, and 611 in 1875.

tion there were 505 cases against 251 in 1870. And now we come to the crime of larceny. We look upon the returns of this offence as really the most important indication of the state of crime in the colony, for it is what may be called the regular 'occupation of the habitual criminal.' He will do a stroke of business in other directions when he sees a chance, but ordinary larceny is what he relies on for his living. The returns for other

offences may be influenced by accidental circumstances, but larceny is always a reliable test of how the Ishmaelite is getting on. We find then that in 1881 the number of larcenies reported to the Police was 1,879. In 1875 it was 938. It had therefore more than doubled. Of other felonies there were nine in 1881 and 13 in 1875. Such are the figures taken from the official returns. Having these returns in his hand, the GOVERNOR had the temerity

to make the audacious statement that we are now enjoying comparative immunity from crime. That no such immunity existed observation of passing events was sufficient to show. Only a month or two ago Captain Superintendent DEANE drew the attention of the Supreme Court to the alarming increase in the number of what are called gang robberies, that is, organised

burglaries by bands of armed men. This is a form of crime which is pretty common on the mainland, where many of the houses are built with some view of defence against forcible attacks. If Hongkong assimilates much more to China in this respect we may perhaps see the inhabitants of the outlying villages here adopting a similar style of building. There have also been of late several attacks on foreigners. This crime was

pretty well stamped out under Sir RICHARD MACDONNELL, but under Sir JOHN POPE HENNESSY it has again mised its head. There were the attacks on Mr. GERRARD, Mr. McEWEEN, Dr. von DER HORCK, and only the other day the violent attack on a police officer in plain clothes on the Peak-road. The inhabitants of Hongkong would do well not to be deceived by the specious utterances

of Sir JOHN POPE HENNESSY as to the safety of life and property in this island. A few more years of his administration would undoubtedly, judging from the past, have rendered this Colony one of the most dangerous places in the world in which to live. Already it is bad enough. It is only by the maintenance of an overwhelming and expensive police force that any degree of safety is maintained.—17th March.

MAP-MAKING IN CHINA.

The present Dynasty has made greater efforts at Map-making than any former one, and appears to have been the first to introduce into them lines of latitude and longitude. The old maps of China were very vague and inaccurate, and they are not ancient in any sense. The map of

to the Empire spoken of in the *Chun Li* was not transmitted to posterity, nor do any of the Classics mention a map except in this instance. *Sau-ma Ch'en* when compiling his History never judged it useful to illustrate it by maps. His commentators have thought differently, and we now find in recent editions of this work special maps, poorly done, of China in the successive periods of the Hsin, the Shang and the Chou. His successor in wearing the mantle of the historian, *Ssu-ma K'ien*, did not yet think it neces-

toric maps was Pauth, but no, although it mentions a map of North-western China, does not include it in his work. There were, then, maps in the Han dynasty which have not come down to us. The geographical works belonging to that time and the next few centuries contain no maps in any accessible editions. The first maps that have been retained in modern editions of ancient books are those of the Sung dynasty, and they seem to be connected with the invention of printing, which dates from A.D. 932.

It was the influence of foreign countries which led the Chinese to enter somewhat vigorously on map-making in the Sung dynasty. The Buddhists began to compile works with maps of India and the countries through which the routes lay to India. In one of their larger works, historical and biographical, the *Po-tsi-tung-chi*, there is a map of China as it was in the Sung dynasty when the Yellow River entered the Gulf of Pechihli at nearly the same point as at present. That follows a map of Western

countries, including Persia and Rome according to the geography of the Han dynasty. Then there is a map of India as known to the Buddhists, in which the Buddhist sacred places occupy the centre, midway between China on the East and the Greek Empire on the West. There is a coast line on the West running nearly from South to North. At the south end is Arabia. North-west of Arabia are Persia and the Greek Empire. Far to the West of Persia is the Fraxa. There is

to the North of those in the Arabian Sea, and in another coast line running east from Arabia to Ceylon, in a line nearly straight. It then passes the Indian Pa-t, sacred to Kuan-yin, and reaches the modern Burma by still pursuing an easterly direction. The Arabian Sea, the Gulf of Persia and the Bay of Bengal, are ignored entirely. Between Burma and Cambodia occurs the only bend in the whole southern coast line of Asia, and in this Bay are seen Java and the other islands of the Eastern Archipelago. The

coast line resumes its easterly direction at Canton. After the Buddhists had done what they could to teach geography to the Chinese after their notions, the Mohammedans followed. Their maps were a little better than those of the Buddhists, but not much so. All through the Sung dynasty till the 13th century when the Mongols established their empire, Chinese scholars suffered from imperfect views of geography, and failed to obtain clear ideas either of foreign countries or of their own in regard to topography.

Good maps have only existed since the Jesuit missionaries came to China; and they belong only to the present dynasty. The Emperors of the periods Kang-hsi and Ch'ien-lung both encouraged the survey of their dominions and the construction of good maps. *Dauville's Atlas Chinoise* is the result in French of the surveys made under Kang-hsi by Gerbillon and his companions. All European maps of China rest mainly on those surveys. The Emperor himself had two motives. He was induced by scientific interest.

his was partly influenced by domestic interests, but chiefly by dynastic considerations. He had subdued to peace a wide empire, and it was an advantage to have a good map of all the countries composing his dominions. Through the combined effect of the love of knowledge and the love of power working in one clear thinking mind, Europe came to know the geography of the Chinese empire. When the Government had good maps, a few copies of which spread among the official class, the officers and wealthy

persons among the people began to make order
maps for sale in the large cities. Among the
atlases of the empire which have been issued by
the Viceroy of Yen Shueien formerly Governor
of Homan deserves special commendation.
It is on a large scale. Each square of
200 K represents a square degree. Two
inches and a half represent two hundred li .
Thus there is abundant space for names,
and these are freely inserted on the most fre-
quented roads. As a specimen of engraving it

is rough, and of course being on wood and done by provincial workmen it cannot equal the copper-plate maps which were issued last century from the Government workshops in Peking. But it is in comparison with past time a great advantage to the people to have a map on a large scale for four or five dollars, on which both degrees and miles are marked by a system of chess-board squares with quite sufficient accuracy for ordinary use. For this they are indebted to Kano-hai and the Jesuits: This map was printed

at Hankow by the late Viceroy Kuan Wen.—
N. C. Herald.

